

US009789406B2

(12) United States Patent

Marr et al.

(54) SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DRIVING MICROTRANSACTIONS IN MULTIPLAYER VIDEO GAMES

(71) Applicant: ACTIVISION PUBLISHING, INC.,

Santa Monica, CA (US)

(72) Inventors: Michael D. Marr, Monroe, WA (US);

Keith S. Kaplan, Bothell, WA (US); Nathan T. Lewis, Woodinville, WA

(US)

(73) Assignee: Activision Publishing, Inc., Santa

Monica, CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 154 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 14/712,566

(22) Filed: May 14, 2015

(65) Prior Publication Data

US 2016/0005270 A1 Jan. 7, 2016

Related U.S. Application Data

- (60) Provisional application No. 62/020,732, filed on Jul. 3, 2014, provisional application No. 62/020,739, filed on Jul. 3, 2014, provisional application No. 62/020,743, filed on Jul. 3, 2014, provisional application No. 62/020,750, filed on Jul. 3, 2014.
- (51) Int. Cl.

 A63F 9/24 (2006.01)

 A63F 13/795 (2014.01)

 A63F 13/30 (2014.01)

 A63F 13/60 (2014.01)

 G07F 17/32 (2006.01)

 A63F 13/847 (2014.01)

(10) Patent No.: US 9,789,406 B2

(45) **Date of Patent:** Oct. 17, 2017

(52) U.S. Cl.

(58) Field of Classification Search

None

See application file for complete search history.

(56) References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | | T. 1 . 1 |
|--------------|-----|---------|------------------------|
| 6,012,096 | Α | 1/2000 | Link et al 709/233 |
| 6,463,078 | B1 | 10/2002 | Engstrom et al 370/466 |
| 6,641,481 | B1 | 11/2003 | Mai et al 463/42 |
| 7,031,473 | B2 | 4/2006 | Morais et al 380/251 |
| 7,050,868 | В1 | 5/2006 | Graepel et al 700/93 |
| 7,376,474 | B2 | | Graepel et al 700/93 |
| 2003/0149675 | A1* | 8/2003 | Ansari A63F 13/10 |
| | | | 706/2 |
| 2006/0184260 | A1 | 8/2006 | Graepel et al 700/92 |
| 2007/0026934 | A1 | 2/2007 | Herbrich et al 463/23 |
| (Continued) | | | |

Primary Examiner — Jason Yen (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Novel IP

(57) ABSTRACT

A system and method is provided that drives microtransactions in multiplayer video games. The system may include a microtransaction arrange matches to influence game-related purchases. For instance, the system may match a more expert/marquee player with a junior player to encourage the junior player to make game-related purchases of items possessed/used by the marquee player. A junior player may wish to emulate the marquee player by obtaining weapons or other items used by the marquee player.

18 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

